PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

Munday, May 7. 1666.

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A way
Of preſerving Birds taken out of the Egge, and other ſmall Fætus's; *communicated by Mr.* Boyle.

THis was imparted in a Letter, as follows; The time of the year invites me to intimate to you, that among the other Uſes of the Experiment, I long ſince preſented the *Society*, of preſerving Whelps taken out of the Dams womb, and other *Fætus's*, or parts of them, in *Spirit of Wine*; I re-

member, I did, when I was ſollicitous to obſerve the Proceſſe of Nature in the Formation of a Chick, open Hens Eggs, ſome at ſuch a day, and ſome at other daies after the beginning of the Incubation, and carefully taking out the *Embryo's*, embalmed each of them in a diſtinct Glaſs (which is to be carefully ſtopt) in *Spirit of Wine:* Which I did, that ſo I might have them in readineſſe, to make on them, at any time, the Obſervations, I thought them capable of affording; and to let my Friends at other ſeaſons of the year, ſee, *both* the differing appearances of the Chick at the third, fourth, ſeventh, fourteenth, or other daies, after the Eggs had been ſate on, *and* (eſpecially) ſome particulars not obvious in Chickens, that go about; as the hanging of the Gutts out of the *Abdomen*, &c. How long the tender *Embryo* of the Chick ſoon after the *Punctum ſaliens* is diſcoverable, *and* whilſt the Body ſeems but a little Organixed Gelly, *and* ſome while after *That*, will be this way preſerv'd, without being too much ſhrivel'd up, I was hindred by ſome miſchances to ſatisfie my ſelf: but when the *Fœtus's*, I took out, were ſo perfectly formed as they were wont to be about the ſeventh day, and after, they ſo well retain'd their ſhape and bulk, as to make me not repent of my curioſity: And ſome of thoſe, which I did very early this Spring, I can yet ſhew you. I know I have mention'd to you an eaſie application of what I, ſome years ſince, made publick enough; but not finding it to have been yet made by any other, and being perſwaded by Experience, that it may be extended to other *Fœtus's*, which this ſeaſon (the *Spring*) is time to make proviſion off, I think the *Advertiſement* will not ſeem unſeaſonable to ſome of our Friends; though being now in haſte, and having in my thoughts divers particulars, relating to this way of Preſerving Birds taken out of the Egge, and other ſmall *Fœtus's*, I muſt content my ſelf to have mention'd that, which is *Eſſential*, leaving divers other things, which a little practiſe may teach the Curious, unmention'd. Notwithſtanding which, I muſt not omit theſe two Circumſtances; the *one*, that when the Chick was grown big, before I took it out of the Egge, I have (but not conſtantly)

mingled

mingled with the *Spirit of Wine*, a little Spirit of *Sal Armoniack*, made (as I have elſewhere delivered) by the help of *Quick-lime*: which Spirit I chooſe, becauſe, though it abounds in a Salt not Sowre, but Urinous, yet I never obſerved it (how ſtrong ſoever I made it) to coagulate Spirit of Wine. The *other* circumſtance is, that I uſually found it convenient, to let the little *Animals*, (I meant to imbalme, lie for a little while in ordinary Spirit of Wine, to waſh off the looſer filth, that is wont to adhere to the Chick, when taken out of the Egge; and then, having put either the ſame kind of Spirit, or better upon the ſame Bird, I ſuffer'd it to ſoak ſome hours (perhaps ſome daies, *pro re nata*) therein, that the Liquor, having drawn as it were what Tincture it could, the *Fœtus* being remov'd into more pure and well dephlegm'd Spirit of Wine, might not diſcolour it, but leave it almoſt as limpid, as before it was put in.

In the uſefulneſs of Experimental Philoſophy.

An Extract

Of a Letter, ſent lately to Sir Robert Moray *out of* Virginia, *concerning an* unuſual *way of propagating* Mulberry trees *there, for the better improvement of the* Silk-Work; *together with ſome other particulars, tending to the good of that* Plantation.

I am diſappointed at this time of ſome Rarities of Minerals, Mettals, and Stones; but you may have them any other time, as conveniently, *&c.* I have planted here already ten thouſand *Mulberry trees*; and hope, within two or three years, to reap good ſilk of them. I have planted them in a way unuſual here, which advances them two or three years growth, in reſpect of their being ſown in ſeed: And they are now, at writing hereof all holding good, although this has been a very long and bitter winter with us, much longer and colder, than ever I did find it in *Scotland* or *England*. I intend likewiſe to plant